HUM.AI.N-ACCENT – Bridging Communication Gaps in Human and Human-AI Interactions: The Role of Accented Speech on Neurocognitive mechanisms and Social Dynamics

Foreign-accented speech can influence communication, decision-making, and social interactions, but we do not understand its cognitive and social effects. Supported by the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions programme, the HUM.AI.N-ACCENT project investigates how accent affects communication with both humans and AI. Specifically, it draws on cognitive psychology, AI engineering, human-computer interaction, and the social sciences. It also employs tools such as neuroimaging, eye-tracking, virtual reality, and neural monitoring to look at neural responses, attention, and social judgments. The findings will help create inclusive AI systems, reduce bias against accents, and improve communication in educational, clinical, and technological settings. It will also train the next generation of researchers to advance speech technology.

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